

1 Francesco Benavides, CSBN 258924
2 Law Offices of Francesco Benavides
3 1990 N. California Blvd. 8th Floor
4 Walnut Creek, CA 94596
5 Tel: (925) 222-7071
6 Email: francesco@benavidesdisabilitylaw.com

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8 Attorney for Plaintiff
9 MICHAEL JOSEPH FOWLER
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12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
13 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
14 SACRAMENTO DIVISION
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17 MICHAEL JOSEPH FOWLER,
18 Plaintiff,
19 v.
20 FRANK BISIGNANO,
21 Commissioner of Social Security,
22 Defendant.
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25 Case No. 2:24-cv-03550-DMC
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27 STIPULATION FOR THE AWARD AND
28 PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES AND
EXPENSES PURSUANT TO THE
EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT;
ORDER

1 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their
2 undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Plaintiff be awarded
3 attorney fees and expenses in the amount of \$8,000.00, under the Equal Access to
4 Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. This
5 amount represents compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf of Plaintiff by
6 counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 2412(d),
7 1920.

8 After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will
9 consider the matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees to counsel. Pursuant to
10 *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 598, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 177 L.Ed.2d 91 (2010), the ability

1 to honor the assignment will depend on whether the fees are subject to any offset
2 allowed under the United States Department of the Treasury's Offset Program. After
3 the order for EAJA fees is entered, the government will determine whether they are
4 subject to any offset.

5 Fees shall be made payable to Plaintiff, but if the Department of the Treasury
6 determines that Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, then the government shall cause
7 the payment of fees, expenses and costs to be made directly to Plaintiff's counsel,
8 Francesco Benavides, pursuant to the assignment executed by Plaintiff.

9 Payments may be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT) or by check.

10 This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for
11 EAJA attorney fees and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of
12 Defendant under the EAJA or otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall
13 constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any and all claims that Plaintiff and/or
14 Francesco Benavides, including the Law Offices of Francesco Benavides, may have
15 relating to EAJA attorney fees in connection with this action.

16 This award is without prejudice to the rights of Francesco Benavides to seek
17 Social Security Act attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the savings
18 clause provisions of the EAJA.

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20 Respectfully submitted,

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22 Dated: June 23, 2025

Law Offices of Francesco Benavides

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24 By: /s/ Francesco Benavides
FRANCESCO P. BENAVIDES
25 Attorney for Plaintiff

1 Dated: June 23, 2025

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5 MICHELE BECKWITH
6 Acting United States Attorney
7 MATHEW W. PILE
8 Associate General Counsel
9 Social Security Administration

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12 By: *Marcelo Illarmo**
13 MARCELO ILLARMO
14 Special Assistant U.S. Attorney
15 Attorneys for Defendant
16 (*Permission to use electronic signature
17 obtained via email on June 23, 2025).
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ORDER

Based upon the parties' Stipulation for the Award and Payment of Equal Access to Justice Act Fees and Expenses, **IT IS ORDERED** that fees and expenses in the amount of \$8,000.00 as authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2412, and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920, be awarded subject to the terms of the Stipulation.

Dated: June 24, 2025



DENNIS M. COTA
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE